

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 30, 2010

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Capitol, S-128  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Capitol, S-128  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
Chairman  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior,  
Environment and Related Agencies  
SD-131  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior,  
Environment and Related Agencies  
SH-125  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye, Vice Chair Cochran, Chairman Feinstein, and Ranking Member Alexander:

We write to express appreciation for your continued support for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), and to urge you to support a funding level of \$180 million for the NEA in the FY 2011 Interior Appropriations bill. Such federal support for the arts promotes creativity and expands cultural, educational, and economic opportunities in communities across the United States.

A \$180 million budget for the NEA in the FY 2011 will strengthen the NEA's already successful programs including Challenge America, Learning in the Arts, Federal/State Partnerships, and Access to Artistic Excellence. Such programs give students and citizens greater access to the arts, and help artists make greater contributions to their communities. For over 40 years, the NEA has provided strategic leadership and investment in the arts and has proudly expanded the growth of arts activity in areas of the country that were previously underserved or not served at all.

Thanks to your leadership, the NEA received \$167.5 million in funding in FY10. In FY09, the NEA awarded over \$110 million in appropriated funds through nearly 2,400 grants reaching all 50 states. In addition, \$49.7 million in ARRA funds were distributed through 693 grants supporting 1,408 jobs. These investments directly contribute to the economic growth and development of local communities across the country. The nonprofit arts industry generates \$166.2 billion annually in economic activity, supports 5.7 million full-time jobs, and returns \$12.6 billion to the federal government in income taxes.

The work of the NEA enriches our lives, supports our educational systems, and bolsters our economy. We urge you to continue to support federal funding of the arts, and request that you increase funding for the NEA to \$180 million in this year's Interior Appropriations bill.

Thank you for your attention to our request. We look forward to working with you on this and the other important issues facing our nation.

Sincerely,



Tom Udall  
United States Senator



Daniel Akaka  
United States Senator



Mark Begich  
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



Ben Cardin  
United States Senator



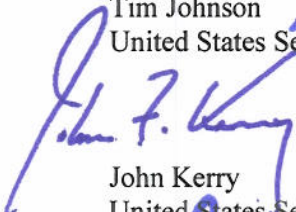
Christopher Dodd  
United States Senator



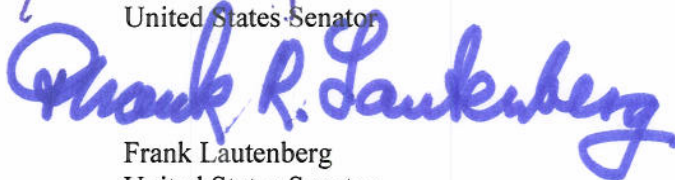
Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



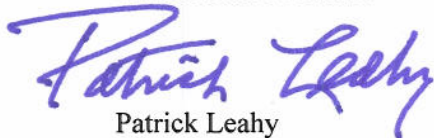
Tim Johnson  
United States Senator



John Kerry  
United States Senator




Frank Lautenberg  
United States Senator



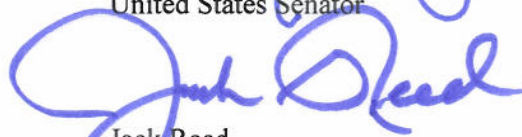
Patrick Leahy  
United States Senator



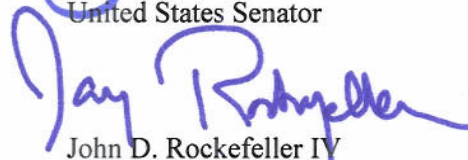
Carl Levin  
United States Senator



Robert Menendez  
United States Senator



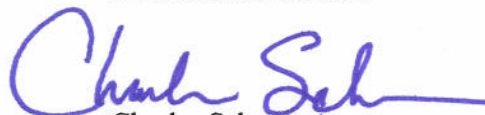
Jack Reed  
United States Senator



John D. Rockefeller IV  
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



Charles Schumer  
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator